

REMARKS**Claim Amendments**

Claims 1-63, 78-92 and 110-119 have been canceled. Claim 75 has been amended to remove the recitation "at least a portion of". Support for this amendment can be found in the specification, for example, at page 26, lines 7-8.

Allowable Subject Matter

Pending Claims 64-71, 74, 76 and 77 are allowed.

Improper withdrawal of Claims 94-109

Claims 94-109 were withdrawn by the Examiner. Applicants believe the withdrawal of Claims 94-109 is improper because these claims depend directly or indirectly from the allowed Claim 64. In addition, Claims 94-109 are encompassed by the elected invention of Group VII, which is drawn to a method of preparing a phenolic polymer, and therefore, are part of the elected invention of Group VII. As such, Applicant respectfully request Claims 94-109 be examined together Claim 64.

Rejection of Claims 72, 73 and 75 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 72, 73 and 75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner stated that Claim 72 and its dependent claim are indefinite as "hematin" and "metal-salen" complex do not appear to be an enzyme. Claim 72 is directed to the use of an "enzyme or enzyme mimetic". Hematin and metal-salen complex are enzyme mimetics. Therefore, Claim 72 and its dependent claim meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

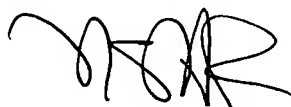
The Examiner further stated that Claim 75 is indefinite as to "removing at least a portion of the protecting groups" as it is not clear what is encompassed by this phrase. Claim 75 has been amended to remove the phrase "at least a portion of," thereby obviating the rejection.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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